

## Chapter Five. Action Program

This part of the plan describes the activities the Newaygo Community and the Recreation Authority will undertake to achieve the goals and objectives established during the community planning process. The actions outlined in this section also address the deficiencies highlighted in the recreation inventory, the community needs assessment and recent activities of the Recreation Authority.

The vision statement and values were compiled from statements coined by citizens and public officials during a community wide participatory planning session. This session was one of the first community gatherings in the development of this plan and helped set a very optimistic and cooperative tone for the planning effort. The *Vision* and *Value* statements established are as followed.

### **Vision Statement**

*In 2025, the Newaygo Community is an exciting four-season center for individual and organized sports, fun and adventure or simple relaxation. The Community offers residents and visitors of all ages, easy access to nature areas, trails and paths, and a wide variety of recreational facilities, as well as educational information.*

### **Value Statements**

*We are a community that values public access to recreational opportunities that support vigorous lifestyles at all ages and stages of life.*

*We are a community that values a variety of recreational facilities to support organized sports, individual recreation, and the exploration of nature.*

*We are a community that values the preservation and protection of natural resources including the habitat required to maintain a broad diversity of plants and wildlife.*

*We are a community that values communication and education concerning the appropriate use and preservation of our recreational and natural resources.*

*We are a community that values Intergovernmental cooperation in maintaining the recreational and natural resources of the Newaygo Community.*

### **Goals and Objectives**

The following section of this plan describes the goals and objectives established by citizens and public officials during the community planning process.

### **Funding and Administration**

#### **Goal 1: Develop Parks and Recreation Administrative Organization**

- Determine feasibility of multi-jurisdictional park and recreation authority

**Goal 2: Provide for Park System Updates, Improvements and Maintenance**

- Provide snow removal services to trail heads
- Provide annual review and evaluation of park facilities

**Goal 3: Develop New & Continuing Funding Sources**

- Seek alternative sources of funding

**Facilities**

**Goal 4: Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at Henning Park**

- Provide for lawn-mowing services
- Maintain and seek new opportunities to improve existing soccer and baseball fields
- Maintain and seek new opportunities to improve the swimming pond
- Seek new opportunities to improve access to recreation facilities
- Improve parking
- Construct new tennis and basketball courts
- Construct a skate-park

**Goal 5: Improve Winter Sports Park**

- Explore options for replacing tow rope & lighting for toboggan run
- Maintain condition of sledding hill
- Explore options for repairing or replacing stairs adjacent to sledding hill
- Explore options for the construction of a multi-purpose ice-rink
- Meet handicap accessibility requirements
- Improve parking
- Improve and maintain the lodge (e.g. building materials, bathrooms, electricity)
- Improve signage
- Develop the Winter Sports Park grounds as the primary trail head for the region

**Goal 6: Establish New Non-Motorized Trail(s)**

- Provide paved trails for biking and in-line skating
- Provide trails for horse-back riding
- Provide trails for hiking
- Link new trails with current and future trails and parks
- Link each municipality with trails
- Meet handicap accessibility requirements
- Work with state, regional and local organizations to help develop and build new trails

**Goal 7: Establish Four Additional Neighborhood Parks Connected to New Trails**

- Provide parks with access to non-motorized trails
- Provide adequate parking and lighting
- Meet handicap accessibility requirements

- Provide picnic tables, grills, trash containers, and bike racks

**Goal 8: Establish New Community Park for Organized Sports**

- Provide central location for soccer and baseball fields
- Provide central location for swimming pool
- Provide central location for tennis courts
- Provide central location for basketball/multi-use courts
- Provide central location for archery range
- Meet handicap accessibility requirements

**Goal 9: Establish Two New Environmentally Sensitive River Access Parks**

- Provide new launch sites for motorized and non-motorized boating
- Develop educational signs to inform public of water-way etiquette
- Meet handicap accessibility requirements

**Goal 10: Establish Way-Finding & Directional Signage**

- Provide clear and well-maintained markers for existing and future trails
- Provide directional street signs for existing and future parks

**Programming**

**Goal 11: Establish Marketing, Communications & Education Program**

- Utilize marketing tools to publicize existing parks and recreation opportunities
- Utilize marketing tools to publicize existing natural features and wildlife
- Develop stewardship program to inform public of water and land use issues
- Develop educational tools to inform public of proper trail and water-way etiquette

**Goal 12: Establish Cooperative Sports & Recreation Programs**

- Work with area-wide youth recreational programs to form single recreational programming
- Establish adult sports programming

**Strategic Actions Program**

The following section details the program of strategic actions to meet the goals and objectives. This section describes a strategic Actions Program providing a short description of the current condition or status of the proposed goal, a description of the basis for action, and the direct action plan. In addition, where appropriate, strategic actions should meet with all ADA requirements.

**Goal 1. Develop Parks and Recreation Administrative Organization**

Prior to the development of this plan, government officials from all four participating jurisdictions have indicated their desire to create a formal *multi-jurisdictional park* and recreation administration for the management, maintenance, improvement, promotion, and funding of a community wide recreation system. These interests led to the initiation and development of the *Newaygo Community Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan*.

In looking for the best approach to establishing a multi-jurisdictional park and recreation administration, representatives from the participating local governments evaluated a number of state statutes that appeared to authorize local governments to work together in providing for public recreation in Michigan including:

- Metropolitan Councils Act 292 of 1989
- Recreation and Playgrounds Act 156 of 1917
- Recreational Authorities Act 321 of 2000
- Metropolitan District Act 312 of 1929
- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994
- Urban Cooperation Act of 1967

### **Action Taken**

The jurisdictions agreed to work together to establish a Recreational Authority, under the *Recreational Authorities Act 321 of 2000* [MCL 123.1135; Sec. 5(1) & (2)] The Act authorizes two or more municipalities (defined as a city, county, village or township) to establish, by resolution, a Recreation Authority. According to the statute, “the purpose for which the authority is established shall be the acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of one or more of the following:”

- Public Swimming Pool
- Public Recreation Center
- Public Auditorium
- Public Conference Center
- Public Park
- Public Museum
- Public Historic Farm

The definition of “park” in this act includes: an area of land and water dedicated to 1 or more of the following uses:

Recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, landscaped tracts; picnic grounds; playgrounds; athletic fields; camps; campgrounds; zoological and botanical gardens; living historical farms; boating, hunting; fishing; and birding areas; swimming areas; and foot, bicycle, and bridle paths; open or scenic space; environmental, conservation, nature, or wildlife areas.

Furthermore, a *Recreation Authority* may acquire and hold real and personal property inside or outside the territory of the authority through purchase, lease, land contract, installment contracts, and other means. A *Recreational Authority* may also obtain grants, collect fees, receive revenue as appropriated by the legislature or participating municipalities, enter into contracts, provide for the maintenance of property, and retain employees and professional services. In addition, the *Recreational Authority* can levy a tax of not more than 1 mill for not more than 20 years on all taxable property within its territory.

To establish the Authority, articles of incorporation must be prepared, including: name of the Authority; participating jurisdictions; description of the territory; and characteristics of the board (e.g. number of members and their selection, qualifications, terms, and replacement.)

A *Recreational Authority* allows for the joint management of all park and recreation functions within the territory of the authority and support a cooperative decision making process. Furthermore, a *Recreational Authority* provides flexibility in the manner in which park updates, maintenance, improvements, development, negotiations, and programming are administered and funded.

### **Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Established**

As previously stated in Chapter One, the development of this plan corresponded with the creation of an intergovernmental body capable of both raising the necessary funds and providing for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the new and existing facilities outlined in this plan. In April of 2006, all four jurisdictions adopted the Articles of Incorporation by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members serving on each legislative body. A printed copy of the Articles was then filed with the Secretary of State Office of the Great Seal. Upon the filing, the Authority became effective on May 3, 2006. Upon the withdraw of Everett Township from the Authority, revised Articles of Incorporation were drafted and adopted by the remaining three jurisdictions. The revised Articles were filed with the Secretary of State Office of the Great Seal. Upon the filing, the Authority became effective in August of 2007. The Authority possesses all the powers specified in Act 321, subject to the limitations of authority as provided by law and or limitations as specified in the Articles of Incorporation.

Though the Recreation Authority was established prior to the adoption of this plan, local officials felt that *Goal One - Develop a Parks and Recreation Administration*, should be left in the Final Plan to illustrate all the goals and objectives established by the citizens of the Newaygo Community and to better support the recommended actions outlined later in this chapter.

### **Goal 2. Provide for Park System Updates, Improvements and Maintenance**

#### **Goal 3. Develop New & Continuing Funding Sources**

Due to the relationship between park maintenance, updates, improvements, and funding, the preceding goals are addressed together in this section. As described in this plan, citizens and public officials agree that cooperative funding initiatives are needed to support park and recreation development on a community-wide basis. Community planning activities have also shown the need to provide general maintenance and upkeep for existing and potential park facilities.

New funding will be required to implement the park and recreation initiatives outlined during the community planning process. Recreation improvement and maintenance can be financed through several funding sources.

### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreational Authority should work to analyze appropriate funding sources that provide general park maintenance functions and support park and trail-way development. The following list provides a brief description of funding sources applicable under the *Recreational Authority*. A more detailed description of these funding options can be found in the Articles of Incorporation.

#### ***General Fund***

As demonstrated by the NACPRAC agreement, some funding can be provided by general fund appropriations from each of the participating jurisdictions.

#### ***Donations***

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations and individuals may contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment and/or facilities.

#### ***Millage***

A Newaygo Community property tax millage may be used to finance park and recreation development initiatives for land acquisition, new facilities, and operation.

The Recreational Authority Act 321 of 2000 authorizes a Recreational Authority to levy a tax of not more than 1 mill for a period of not more than 20 years on all of the taxable property within the territory of the authority.

#### ***Lease and Fee-For-Service Arrangements***

The Newaygo Community may negotiate a lease for the use of parkland facilities by groups and organizations. A common method is to initiate lease agreements with local youth/parent sports organizations for use of parkland facilities. Concessions at these facilities may also generate small amounts of funding. Another method may be to lease underutilized park land for other uses such as cell towers.

#### ***Bonds***

The Newaygo Community could borrow funds to finance the development of park and recreation facilities. General Obligation bonds can be issued for specific community projects but require repayment with interest by the issuing Authority. Repayment usually requires some form of tax such as a millage. A public vote of approval is required before issuing a General Obligation Bond. Revenue Bonds can also be issued to raise funds for construction of public projects. However, these bonds are tied to a revenue source created by the project such as concessions, lease agreements, and fees.

#### ***Private and Community Foundations***

A foundation is a special form of non-profit corporation established as a federally approved mechanism through which land, cash and securities may be accumulated and

“gifted” for specified non-profit activities. Therefore, foundation support could help with improving parks and recreation services.

### ***Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants***

The Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. Grant amounts range from \$15,000 to \$500,000, with a required minimum local match of 25%.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provide grants to local units of government to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The DNR makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) which grants final approval.

### ***Eligibility***

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans*, a Regional Recreation Authority is eligible for MNRTF and LWCF funding upon the approval of a recreation plan by the DNR Grants Section.

In addition, the DNR provides several grant opportunities for outdoor and recreation subjects such as wildlife, fisheries, boating, forestry, trails, and law enforcement.

### ***Michigan Trail-way Fund***

In 1993, the State of Michigan enacted “trailways” legislation calling for a statewide system of smooth-surfaced trails passing through Michigan natural areas and communities. The legislation allows communities to formally designate existing trails as a “Michigan Trailway” through the DNR Natural Resources Commission. Trails under development can be considered for trailway designation and receive financial assistance from the Michigan Trailways Fund, if a master plan or other documentation that provides a basis for evaluation is presented for review.

### ***Transportation Enhancement Act***

In 1992, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) established the *Transportation Enhancement Program* to improve the quality of life for Michigan citizens by providing funding and other assistance, creating and responding to opportunities to enhance Michigan’s transportation system. The program was the result of the *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991*. In 1998, the program was reauthorized in the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)*.

According to Michigan Department of Transportation, *Transportation Enhancement Program Instructions for Applicants*:

*Reauthorization legislation is under consideration in Congress for fiscal years 2004 and beyond. In the meantime, transportation programs are authorized via*

*“continuing resolution” which simply extends the provisions and funding levels of TEA-21 to the date new authorization legislation is signed into law.*

Under past programs, activities eligible for funding included the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, wide paved shoulders and off-road trails, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, landscaping and other scenic beautification improvements including trails and waterfronts, and the preservation of abandoned railway corridors to acquire railroad rights-of-way, construct multi-use trails, and develop rail-with-trail projects. Federal law requires the applicant to provide a minimum match of 20% of the project cost.

Eligible agencies include MDOT, county road commissions, cities and villages, Native American Tribes, federal agencies, other state departments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies. MDOT encourages organizations and agencies that are not eligible to apply for *Transportation Enhancement* funding to collaborate with an appropriate eligible applicant agency as partners in planning financing, developing, and implementing transportation enhancement projects.

#### **Goal 4. Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at Henning Park**

With large open fields devoted to soccer and baseball, a volley-ball court, a swimming pond and a basketball court Henning Park is the primary location in the Newaygo Community for organized and individual sports. The park property is owned by Newaygo County. Recently, the Recreation Authority successfully negotiated the management responsibility of the recreation facilities located in the park. Newaygo Community citizens and public officials have expressed their desire to upgrade several facilities in the park, including: the gravel parking lot, the basketball and tennis courts and the swimming pond. As described in Chapter Four, a number of improvements are currently on-going.

#### **Recommended Action(s)**

The first priority of the Recreation Authority should be to maintain the existing recreation facilities located throughout the park. These include the soccer/baseball fields, swimming pond and parking lot. In addition, the Recreation Authority should continue to work with local organizations that provide youth summer program activities at the park. In addition to these priorities, the Recreation Authority should continue to work on the on-going improvements to the park, including: the tennis and basketball courts, a pavilion, pathways and sidewalks and a skatepark.

#### **Goal 5. Improve Winter Sports Park**

The Winter Sports Park is a 13.4 acre park located along M-37 in Everett Township approximately five miles north of the City of Newaygo. The park was established in 1940 through a collaborative effort between the Manistee National Forest Service, the Newaygo County Chamber of Commerce, the Newaygo County Road Commission, and the White River CCC camp. Park features included twin cement based toboggan runs, a ski run, a bob sled course, an ice skating area, and lodge.

This past April, the Recreation Authority successfully drafted and adopted a lease agreement with Newaygo County to take control of the park. After reviewing and discussing the future of the park at several meetings, the Recreation Authority reasoned that, in the short term, the cost of repairing and/or replacing the equipment in the park was too high and that recent warm weather trends would leave the potential operation of such equipment open for only a short period of time. Therefore, the Recreation Authority determined the park would make an ideal location for a safe, well-lit trailhead that would provide a link with the North Country Trail and the 16 miles of future trails detailed in the plan. In fact, the Recreation Authority met with representatives from the North Country Trail Association and agreed to work together on the development of a new trail that would connect the Winter Sports Park with the North Country Trail.

Due to a recent grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the Recreation Authority has recently taken measures to improve the structural quality of the lodge, improve signage and pave the parking lot.

### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreation Authority should continue to pursue the development of the Winter Sports Park as the primary trailhead for the Newaygo region. Additional improvements to the park should include directional signage and mapping, working bathrooms and a new septic system. In addition, the Recreation Authority should continue to examine and explore opportunities to rebuild the tow-ropes, add lighting for the toboggan run and construct a new outdoor multi-purpose ice-rink.

### **Goals 6. Establish New Non-Motorized Trail(s)**

The Newaygo Community currently has four non-motorized trails at different, unconnected locations throughout the area. Trails include the Riverfront Trail, extending between Riverfront Park Phase I and Phase II, the nature trails located in the Coolbough Natural Areas, the North Country Trail extending through portions of Brooks and Everett Township, and the nature trails located at Henning Park.

Newaygo Community citizens and public officials have called for the development of a “system” of non-motorized trails providing linkages to existing parks and trails, natural areas, and each jurisdiction. The extent of function and surface type for the trail system remains to be determined. However, the community is committed to developing trails for hiking, biking, in-line skating, and horseback riding.

During the planning process, a large public participation exercise was conducted to determine the best locations for trails and other facilities. Citizens and public officials worked together to establish the following preferred trail locations:

- Trail extending from the City of White Cloud to the City of Newaygo;
- Trail extending from the Coolbough Natural Areas to the Regional Sport Complex;
- Trail extending from the Coolbough Natural Areas to the North Country Trail;
- Trail extending from the Brooks Lake Boat Launch to the City of Newaygo;

- Trail extending from M-82 to the northwest portion of a Garfield Township Parcel; and
- Trail extending from the City of Newaygo along the North Shore of the Muskegon River

Map 22 illustrates the approximate locations of these interconnected trails.

After reviewing and discussing the future of non-motorized trails at several meetings, the Recreation Authority has re-evaluated the preferred location of the trail from the Winter Sports Park to downtown Newaygo. In addition, the Recreation Authority has initiated the development of three new trails within the proposed trail network. The first trail will be a short trail-link between the Winter Sports Park and the North Country Trail. The North Country Trail Association has already agreed to help the Authority construct this trail. The second trail (Penoyer Creek Trail) will traverse between the North Country Trail and Henning Park. Ultimately, this 3-mile trail will connect Henning park with the Winter Sports Park and the Coolbough Natural Areas. The third trail (Muskegon Riverside Pathway) would would connect a new mixed-use development to the City of Newaygo's Business District along the Muskegon River. The 1.3 mile multi-sensory pathway is intended to meet and exceed ASHTO guidelines in terms of width and access for a variety of non-motorized uses (pedestrians, bicycles, joggers, in-line skating, power operated vehicles – scooters, wheelchairs, etc.).

On a separate note, the North Country Trail Association and the Coolbough Environmental Council has established a link between the Valley of the Ant Loop (Coolbough) and the North Country Trail.

### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreation Authority should work to develop the following community wide trail system. The trail system should be developed along the approximate locations established during the *Establishing the Community Priorities* meeting and after further investigation by the Authority.

1. A trail head should be established near James Street and State Road just south of the City of White Cloud. A trail should extend south, connecting with the Winter Sports Sports Park, and link with proposed North Country Trail spur. The trail should then link with the proposed Penoyer Creek Trail and then onto Henning Park.
2. A trail head should be established near the boat launch site on Brooks Lake. A trail should extend west along the south-side of M-82 connecting to a National Forest Parcel near Brooks Creek. The trail should cross M-82 and follow Brooks Creek northwest, until Barton Road. The trail should cross Barton Road and continue to extend along Brooks Creek until it connects with Marshall Memorial Park on M-37. The trail should cross M-37 and continue to extend to the Riverfront Park trail. The Newaygo Community should pursue an agreement with the National Forest Service to construct a trail on public land adjacent to M-82. The National Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan had

designated the parcel in question “Rural” with a *Desired Future Condition* including the development of non-motorized trails.



3. A trail should extend east from the M-37 Muskegon River Bridge along the north shore of the Muskegon River until it connects with Henning Park.

4. A trail head should be established near the corner of Bingham Avenue and 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Garfield Township. A trail should extend northwest around the Garfield Township parcel.

5. A trail should extend from the end of the Riverfront Park (Phase I) along the Muskegon River. The paved trail will also feature viewing platforms and fishing areas that offer universal accessibility to the areas most precious resource, the Muskegon River.

6. A trail should be established from the Winter Sports Park to the North Country Trail.

7. A Trail should be established from the North Country Trail to Henning Park. Ultimately, this trail will connect Henning Park with the Winter Sports Park and the Coolbough Natural Area.

**Goal 7: Establish Four Additional Neighborhood Parks Connected to New Trails**  
Newaygo Community citizens and public officials have called for the development of additional parks to support the community wide trail system. Additional parks would provide users with parking facilities, picnic areas, and a peaceful location to rest and

relax. Additional parks would also further support other outdoor recreation activities. The exact placement and size of additional parks remains to be determined. However, community members have offered their recommended locations as part of this plan. Parks locations include:

- Brooks Lake Boat Launch;
- National Forest Parcel near Brooks Creek, along M-82;
- Corner of Barton and Scott Street, along Brooks Creek; and
- Bingham Avenue and 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Map 22 illustrates the approximate location of additional parklands.

### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreation Authority should work to fund, construct, and manage the additional parklands called for during the *Establishing the Community Priorities* meeting.

### **Goal 8. Establish New Community Park for Organized Sports**

Current park facilities throughout the Newaygo Community provide minimal support for organized sporting activities. Organized sporting activities are primarily held at the Ball Park Facilities and Henning Park. Ball Park Facilities are in poor to fair condition. Facilities at Henning Park are in fair condition, but configured in such a manner that soccer and baseball fields share large portions of playing space. This limits play to one sport at a time.

Representatives of the Newaygo Community Little League and Soccer Programs report that they are often faced with difficulties in finding alternative locations for games and practice due to the limited availability. Community planning research has also revealed that open space within the City of Newaygo Industrial Park has often been used for local soccer practices.

Public comment and community surveys have shown that there is significant support for the development of a large sports complex that would include new softball and baseball fields, separate soccer fields, tennis courts, playground facilities, archery facilities, a public pool, concession and restroom facilities, parking, and lighting. This new *Sports Complex* would meet the recreation needs of the Newaygo Community, but also serve as a center for regional sporting activities. Planning activities initially suggested the location for the sports complex on the old municipal land fill site just north of the City of Newaygo. Recent discussions by members of the Recreation Authority have suggested a city owned lot next to the cemetery might be a more logical location for the sports complex.

### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreational Authority should investigate the potential use of a city lot adjacent to the cemetery on Croton. This location would be ideal due to its proximity to downtown Newaygo and the established recreation facilities at Henning Park.

### **Goal 9. Establish Two New Environmentally Sensitive River Access Parks**

Newaygo Community residents and public officials have called for the development of two additional parks, providing access to the Muskegon and White Rivers. The exact placement and size of these two parks remains to be determined. However, community members have recommended locations as part of this plan. Park locations include:

- James Street and State Road, near the City of White Cloud near the White River\*
- Felch Avenue, along the Muskegon River

\* Denotes park with proposed connection with proposed trail or trail system.

Map 22 illustrates the approximate location of additional parklands.

Public Comment and community input has revealed there are serious community concerns over the heavy summer boat traffic and dangerous boating behavior near and around existing boat launches. This behavior has caused several environmental and safety issues along the Muskegon River. Excessive boat speed has been blamed for riverbank erosion, property damage, and excess boat noise. Boaters fighting for fishing positions have also caused unsafe river conditions and shoreline resident complaints.

#### **Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreation Authority should work to fund, construct, and manage the additional parklands called for during the *Establishing the Community Priorities* meeting. In addition, the *Recreation Authority* should work to pursue an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to enforce noise and safety issues. The *Recreation Authority* should also develop educational programs and signage clearly describing the adverse effect of boating behavior to residents and the environment.

The Recreation Authority should also closely follow the development of House Bill 5960 in the Michigan Legislature. The Bill would allow townships to enforce access laws in places (such as boat launches) the state cannot afford to staff.

The Recreation Authority should also consider the placement and/or development of facilities at a potential park along the Muskegon River at Felch Park. The area has been designated as Zone AE by FEMA. Zone AE is considered a special flood hazard area, inundated by 100-year floods.

### **Goal 10. Establish Way-Finding & Directional Signage**

Current way-finding and directional signage within the Newaygo Community provides minimal assistance and direction for both residents and visitors. Community planning activities revealed that many residents were not aware of the location of several parks within the Newaygo Community. In addition, several residents expressed concerns over the same lack of awareness for potential visitors.

**Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreational Authority should work to design, fund, and install new signage that directs residents and visitors to Newaygo Community Parks. The signage design should be similar throughout the Newaygo Community, and be clear and easy to read. Directional signs should be strategically located on minor arterial and major collector roads. Directional signs should also be located along all roads on which a park is located and at major intersections.

**Goal 11. Establish Marketing, Communications & Education Programs**

Currently, each jurisdiction promotes and markets area park and recreation resources on an individual basis. Brooks Township and the City of Newaygo provide on-line information, as well as brochures and pamphlets. General inquires can be directed to each government office. In addition, Newaygo County produces an annual visitor's guide with information pertaining to park and recreation opportunities.

Community planning research has documented broad public concern over the lack of general knowledge pertaining to existing park and recreation facilities and natural resources within the Newaygo Community. Concern has also been expressed over both trail and boating etiquette.

Education materials pertaining to environmental awareness and trail and boating etiquette remain limited in the Newaygo Community. Brooks Township has published *Natural Newaygo*, a natural resource guide to the Newaygo Area. Brooks Township, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, has also developed natural resource and outdoor etiquette pamphlets and informational kiosks specifically for the Coolbough Natural Areas.

**Recommended Action(s)**

The Recreation Authority should work with community leaders, the National Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop and market an attractive and convincing "Newaygo Community Recreation and Natural Resource Guide." The guide should include information regarding park and recreation opportunities, including opportunities for organized, individual, and outdoor recreation. Information should also be provided on trail and boating etiquette and individual environmental protection measures. Finally, the guide should provide general information pertaining to the Newaygo Community's natural resources including unique natural features and wildlife species.

**Goal 12. Establish Cooperative Sports & Recreation Programs**

Current sports programming in the Newaygo Community is limited to Little League Baseball, AYSO, and Rocket Football. Little League Baseball in the Newaygo Area is organized through the Tri-City Little League. The league includes approximately 200 children between the age of 4 and 14 from the City of Newaygo, White Cloud, Hesperia, Grant and Kent City areas. The Newaygo Area AYSO program includes approximately 250 to 400 children between the ages of 4 and 18. Both programs have observed increased participation over the last four years, putting increasing pressure on existing

programs and facilities. Through this planning process, citizen and public officials have called for increased sports programming for both children and adults.

**Recommended Action(s)**

The *Recreation Authority* should work to develop a Newaygo Community Sports and Recreation Program that would meet the programming needs of children, adults, families, and senior citizens. Additional analysis should be conducted to determine specific programming interests and facility requirements.

**Capital Improvement Plan**

Table 28 provides the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for the anticipated administrative initiatives of the Newaygo Community. Tables 29 through 41 provide the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for anticipated park and trail-way development improvement in the Newaygo Community. The gray portion of tables 29 through 41 indicates the overall development project. Tables 29 through 41 also provide the project name, funding source, basis for action, description, connection, distance & size, priority level, cost estimate, and time frame for each development. Map 23, illustrates the “priority level” of trail-way and park development.

<b>Table 28</b>				
<b>Newaygo Community Administrative Capital Improvement Plan</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Basis for Action</b>
<b>2006</b>	Implement Recreation Authority Establish Articles of Incorporation ○ Adopt formal resolution		Grant	2, 4
<b>2007</b>	Adopt Amended Plan		Grant	
<b>2006</b>	Recreation Authority researches and analyzes park and recreation funding sources	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4
<b>2008</b>	Recreation Authority researches appropriate way-finding signage design and materials	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4
<b>2008</b>	Recreation Authority designs and installs way-finding signage	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation,	2, 4
<b>2007</b>	Recreation Authority works with community leaders, the National Forest Service, and DNR to develop “ <i>Newaygo Community Recreation and Natural Resources Guide</i> ”	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4
<b>2007</b>	Recreation Authority publishes and markets “ <i>Newaygo Community Recreation and Natural Resources Guide</i> ”	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4

<b>2007</b>	Recreation Authority works with area sports programs to determine appropriate sports programming Recreation Authority researches and analyzes appropriate adult sports programming	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4
<b>2008</b>	Recreation Authority establishes Newaygo Community Recreation Program	Cost to be determined	Local, Grant, Donation	2, 4

**Funding Sources:**

Local: Recreation Authority

Millage: Established under the Recreation Authority

Grant: MDNR Grant or other grant available

Donation: Community or Private Foundations

**Basis For Action:**

1. Existing Park Evaluation
2. Community Input
3. Other Identified Needs
4. General Park Operational and/or Maintenance Needs

<b>Table 29. Trailways System: Everett Trail</b>						
	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Everett Trail</b>	Trail extends from northern most portion of Everett Township to the Winter Sports Park.	Everett Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Everett Twp. Park at James Street and State Road</li> <li>• Winter Sports Park</li> <li>• North Country Trail</li> </ul>	28,357 ft.		\$708,925 to \$1,417,850	2007 - 2011
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis For Action</b>	2, 3					

<b>Table 30. Trailways System: Garfield Trail</b>						
	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Garfield Trail</b>	Trail extends from the corner of Bingham Avenue and 72 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue northwest to Garfield Twp. Park.	Garfield Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garfield Twp. Park in northeast portion of parcel</li> <li>• Bingham Avenue</li> <li>• 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue</li> </ul>	1,612 ft.	One	\$40,300 to \$80,600	2008 - 2009
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis for Action</b>	2, 3					
<b>Segments</b>	No segments					

<b>Table 31. Trailways System: North Riverfront Trail</b>						
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Connections</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>North Riverfront Trail</b>	Trail extends from north side of M-37 Bridge to Henning Park	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-37 Bridge</li> <li>• Henning Park</li> <li>• Shaw Park</li> </ul>	2,968 ft.	Three	\$ 74,200 to \$148,400	2009 - 2010
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis for Action</b>	2, 3					
<b>Segments</b>	No Segments					

<b>Table 32. Trailways System: Brooks Lake/Riverfront Extension Trail</b>						
<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Brooks Lake/Riverfront Extension Trail</b>	Trail extends east from Riverfront Park Phase I. through the City of Newaygo and along Brooks Creek and M-82 to Brooks Lake Park	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverfront Park Phase I. and II.</li> <li>• Marshall Memorial Park</li> <li>• Brooks Creek Park at the corner of Barton Road between Ewing Street and Scott Street</li> </ul> Brooks Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-82</li> <li>• M-82 Connector Park on M-82 (National Forest Parcel)</li> <li>• Brooks Lake Park</li> </ul>	16,411 ft.		\$410,275 to \$820,550	2008 - 2011
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis for Action</b>	2, 3					
<b>Segments</b>	Riverfront Park Phase I. extending east across M-37 to Marshall Memorial Park		2,334 ft.	One	\$ 58,350 to \$116,700	2008 - 2007
	Marshall Memorial Park along Brooks Creek to Brooks Creek Park at Barton Road		3,735 ft.	One	\$93,375 to \$186,750	2008 - 2007
	Brooks Creek Park to M-82 Connector Park		6,738 ft.	Two	\$168,450 to \$336,900	2008 - 2009
	M-82 Connector Park to Brooks Lake Park		3,604 ft.	Three	\$90,100 to \$180,200	2010 – 2011

<b>Table 33. Trailways System: Penoyer Creek Trail</b>						
<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Penoyer Creek Trail</b>  <b>Funding Source</b>  <b>Basis for Action</b>	Trail extends southwest from the North Country Trail to Henning Park (Trail will include benches and interpretive signage)  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henning Park.</li> </ul> Everett Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Sports Park</li> </ul> Brooks Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coolbough Natural Area</li> </ul>	3 Miles		\$215,000	2007 - 2011
<b>No Segments</b>						

<b>Table 34. Trailways System: Winter Sports Park Link</b>						
<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Winter Sports Park Link</b>	Trail extends east from the Winter Sports Park to the North Country Trail	Everett Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Sports Park</li> </ul> North Country Trail	1.5 Miles		No Cost Labor provided by the North Country Trail Association	2007 - 2011
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis for Action</b>	2, 3					
<b>No Segments</b>						

<b>Table 35. Trailways System: Riverfront Pathway</b>						
<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Riverfront Pathway</b>  <b>Funding Source</b>  <b>Basis for Action</b>	Trail extends east from Riverfront Park Phase I. through the City of Newaygo and along Brooks Creek and M-82 to Brooks Lake Park  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverfront Park Phase I. and II.</li> <li>• Marshall Memorial Park</li> <li>• Brooks Creek Park at the corner of Barton Road between Ewing Street and Scott Street</li> </ul> Brooks Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-82</li> <li>• M-82 Connector Park on M-82 (National Forest Parcel)</li> <li>• Brooks Lake Park</li> </ul>	16,411 ft.		\$410,275 to \$820,550	2008 - 2011
<b>Segments</b>	Riverfront Park Phase I. extending east across M-37 to Marshall Memorial Park		2,334 ft.	One	\$ 58,350 to \$116,700	2008 - 2007
	Marshall Memorial Park along Brooks Creek to Brooks Creek Park at Barton Road		3,735 ft.	One	\$93,375 to \$186,750	2008 - 2007
	Brooks Creek Park to M-82 Connector Park		6,738 ft.	Two	\$168,450 to \$336,900	2008 - 2009
	M-82 Connector Park to Brooks Lake Park		3,604 ft.	Three	\$90,100 to \$180,200	2010 – 2011

<b>Table 36. Trailways System: Muskegon Riverfront Pathway</b>						
<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Connections</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Muskegon Riverfront Pathway</b>	Trail extends south from Riverfront Park (Phase I.) along the Muskegon River	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverfront Park (Phase I)</li> </ul>	1.3 Miles		To be determined	2007 - 2011
<b>Funding Source</b>	Local, Grant, Donation					
<b>Basis for Action</b>	2, 3					
<b>No Segments</b>						

**Table 37. Parks System: Winter Sports Park**

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trail Affiliation</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Funding Source</b> <b>Basis For Action</b>	Located along M-37 approximately 5 miles north of the city of Newaygo. Park facilities include a lodging facility, toboggan run, sledding hill, lake access, and parking  Local, Grant, Donation  1, 2, 3, 4	Everett Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everett Trail</li> </ul>	13.4 Acres	One	\$124,500	2007 - 2009
<b>Site Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two (2) new unisex restrooms</li> <li>- A janitorial closet</li> <li>- A new septic system</li> <li>- New electric infrastructure</li> <li>- A new roof</li> <li>- New window</li> <li>- Other Structural Improvements</li> </ul>				\$75,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new parking lot</li> <li>- New landscaping and Grading</li> <li>- New Signage</li> </ul>				\$49,500	

<b>Table 38. Parks System: Brooks Lake Park</b>						
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trail affiliation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b> <b>Basis For Action</b>	Located along M-82 adjacent to the boat launch at the north end of Brooks Lake  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	Brooks Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brooks Lake/Riverfront Extension Trail</li> </ul>	1 - 5 Acres	Three	\$57,000	2009 - 2011
<b>Site Projects</b> <b>Parking Area &amp; Entrance</b>	-Level Gravel Parking -Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$19,200 \$9,000 \$800	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack -Accessible Pathways				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	

<b>Table 39. Parks System: M-82 Connector Park</b>						
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trail affiliation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>	Located along M-82 West of the proposed Brooks Lake Park. Parcel owned by the U.S. Forest Service	Brooks Township <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brooks Lake/Riverfront Extension Trail</li> </ul>	1 - 5 Acres	Two	\$57,000	2009 - 2010
<b>Basis For Action</b>	Local, Grant, Donation 2, 3					
<b>Site Projects</b>						
<b>Parking Area &amp; Entrance</b>	-Level Gravel Parking -Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$19,200 \$ 9,000 \$ 800	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	

<b>Table 40. Parks System: Brooks Creek Park</b>						
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trail affiliation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Funding Source</b>	Located at the corner of Barton Street between Ewing Street and Scott Street	Brooks Township • Brooks Lake/Riverfront Extension Trail	1 - 5 Acres	One	\$219,800	2007 -2009
<b>Basis For Action</b>	Local, Grant, Donation 2, 3					
<b>Site Projects</b>						
<b>Parking Areas &amp; Entrance</b>	-Bituminous Paving w/sand Base -Concrete Curb and Gutter -Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$57,600 \$48,800 \$18,000 \$1,400	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	
<b>Walks &amp; Trails</b>	-Bituminous Paths				\$65,900	

<b>Table 41. Parks System: Garfield Township Park</b>						
<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trail affiliation</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Funding Source</b> <b>Basis For Action</b>	Located at Bingham Avenue and 72 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	Garfield Township • Garfield Trail	1 - 5 Acres	One	\$57,000	2007 - 2009
<b>Site Projects</b>						
<b>Parking Area &amp; Entrance</b>	-Level Gravel Parking -Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$19,200  \$9,000 \$800	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	

<b>Table 42. Parks System: Community Sports Park</b>						
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trail affiliation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Funding Source</b>	Adjacent to of the City of Newaygo cemetery on Croton Road - Near Henning Park	City of Newaygo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penoyer Creek Trail</li> </ul>	27 acres	One	\$1,152,709	2007 - 2008
<b>Basis For Action</b>	Local, Grant, Donation 1, 2, 3					
<b>Site Projects</b>						
<b>(2) Softball Field</b>	-Infield Surfacing -Black Top -Chain Link Fencing -Concrete Bench Slab -Players Bench -Pitchers Plate and Bases				\$26,469 \$6,000 \$8,360 \$5,500 \$6,000 \$1,000	
<b>(1) Baseball Field</b>	-Infield Surfacing -Black Top -Chain Link Fencing -Concrete Bench Slab -Players Bench -Pitchers Plate and Bases				\$1,475 \$1,500 \$2,090 \$1,375 \$1,500 \$ 250	
<b>Additional Items</b>	3 Rows x 15' Bleacher Pedestrian Surfacing				\$9,000 \$8,004	
<b>(2) Basketball Courts</b>	-Surfacing -Goals				\$25,476 \$14,000	

<b>Continued</b>						
<b>(2) Tennis Courts</b>	-Nets -Court Surfacing				\$400 \$80,000	
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	30' x 60'				\$75,000	
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	(2) International Fields U-12 Soccer Field U-10 Soccer Field (2) U-8 Soccer Fields U-6 Soccer Field				\$100,000 \$12,000 \$12,000 \$24,000 \$12,000	
<b>Playground Area</b>	-Play Area Edging -Concrete Paving -Wood Fiber Surfacing -Poured-in-Place Safety Surfacing -Sand Base -Play Area Equipment				\$44,200 \$13,338 \$10,548 \$3,288 \$1,820 \$107,305	
<b>Parking Area &amp; Entrance</b>	-Bituminous Paving w/ sand Base -Accel/Deccel Lane Bituminous Paving -Concrete Lane Curb & Gutter -Accel/Decell Lane Curb Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$126,720 \$7,812 \$48,800 \$12,240 \$18,000 \$1,400	
<b>Walks and Trails</b>	Gravel Walks Bituminous Paths				\$79,640 \$65,900	

<b>Table 43. Parks System: Garfield Township Muskegon River Park</b>						
<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trail affiliation</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Priority Level</i>	<i>Total Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Year</i>
<b>Funding Source</b> <b>Basis For Action</b>	Located on Felch Avenue, along the Muskegon River  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	None	1 - 5 Acres	Two	\$57,000	2008 - 2009
<b>Site Projects</b>						
<b>Parking Areas &amp; Entrance</b>	-Level Gravel Parking -Site Lighting -Handicap Sign				\$19,200 \$9,000 \$800	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	

<b>Table 44. Parks System: North Everett Township Park</b>						
<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trail affiliation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Funding Source</b> <b>Basis For Action</b>	Located at James Street and State Road, near the City of White Cloud  Local, Grant, Donation  2, 3	Everett Township • Everett Trail	1 - 5 Acres	Three	\$57,000	2009 - 2011
<b>Site Projects</b> <b>Parking Area &amp; Entrance</b>					\$19,200  \$9,000 \$800	
<b>Site Furniture</b>	-Picnic Tables -Grills -Benches -Litter Containers -Drinking Fountain -Bike Rack				\$6,000 \$3,400 \$7,200 \$6,500 \$3,500 \$2,500	

**Funding Sources:**

Local: Recreation Authority

Millage: Established under the Recreation Authority

Grant: MDNR Grant or other grant available

Donation: Community or Private Foundations

**Basis For Action:**

1. Existing Park Evaluation
2. Community Input
3. Other Identified Needs
4. General Park Operational and/or Maintenance Needs